

FORTIFICATIONS AT CHARLESTON, S. C.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

Transmitting Information,

(IN PURSUANCE OF A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 18TH INST.)

UPON THE SUBJECT OF THE

Works intended for the Defence of Charleston,

IN THE

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

DECEMBER 22, 1826.

Read, and laid upon the table.

WASHINGTON :

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1826.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

December 19, 1826.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a report from the Chief Engineer, of this date; and beg leave, respectfully, to refer to it, as affording, as far as practicable, the information called for by a resolution which was passed in the House of Representatives yesterday, directing the Secretary of War "to report to the House whether the projects of the works intended for the defence of the harbor of Charleston, in South Carolina, will be finished, and when the works will be commenced."

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES BARBOUR.

The Hon. JOHN W. TAYLOR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

December 19, 1826.

SIR: In pursuance of your instructions, to report to you the information called for by a resolution which was passed in the House of Representatives yesterday, directing the Secretary of War "to report to the House whether the projects of the works intended for the defence of the harbor of Charleston, in South Carolina, will be finished, and when the works will be commenced," I have the honor to report, that the projects alluded to will be finished as soon as practicable, and that it is contemplated to commence the works as soon, after the completion of the projects, as an appropriation for that purpose can be obtained, and an officer of Engineers to superintend the same may be disposable for that service.

During last winter, a member of the Board of Engineers was instructed to prepare the projects above stated; and it was then expected they would have been finished by this time. It is believed that expectation would have been realized had the member of the Board alluded to been furnished, as soon as it had been supposed he would be furnished, with the drawings exhibiting the results of the surveys which would afford the data principally to be relied on, in aid of the formation of the projects. But the completion of those drawings has been unexpectedly protracted until this time, in consequence, as it is understood, of the frequent indisposition of the persons who have been engaged in preparing them. It is believed they have been finished, and are now on the way to this place. As soon as they shall be received, they will be put into the hands of the member of the Board to whom, as has been stated, the formation of the projects has been committed; and it is possible the projects may be completed in the course of the month of March next.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEX. MACOMB, *Maj. Gen.*
Chief Engineer.

The Hon. J. BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.